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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/532,999

12/22/2005

Marc Riemenschnitter

RO0989US (#90568)

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D Peter Hochberg Co
The Baker Building-6th Floor
1940 East 6th Street
Cleveland, OH 44114-2294

EXAMINER

LEWIS, KIM M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3772

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/07/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/532,999	Applicant(s) RIEMENSCHNITTER	
	Examiner Kim M. Lewis	Art Unit 3772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claim 1-17 and 19-24 in the reply filed on 4/28/08 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the solvent is removed in the last step of the manufacturing process of claim 18, *i.e.*, drying said coated film. Therefore, the product of the claim 18 does not contain a solvent in the same manner as the product of the claims of Group I. Thus, Group I and Group II are linked by the same technical features. This is not found persuasive because while in the method step the solvent is removed, it is still present in the method steps as a whole and not present in the product claims of Group I.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-3, 6, 9-10 and 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,375,963 ("Repka et al.")

As regards claims 1-3, 6, 9-10, 13-17 and 19-21, Repka et al. disclose a bioadhesive hot-melt extruded film for topical and mucosal adhesive applications and drug delivery and process for preparation thereof. More specifically, Repka et al. disclose a hot-melt extruded film for the transdermal or mucosal administration of active substances, whose adhesive force develops after humidification (see column 5, lines 3-15). Also disclosed is a film for the treatment of wounds contains, *inter alia*, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, carbomer and polycarbophil, can be connected to an overlaying adhesive patch (note example 4). Repka et al. also disclose in example 7, a vitamin E adhesive patch that guards against wrinkles and senile lentigo contains, *inter alia*, Gantrez MS-955, polycarbophil and hydroxypropyl cellulose. Also disclosed is that the bioadhesive film also contains organic acids such as tartaric acid (note claim 1 and example 7). Further disclosed are acrylic polymers (note claim 30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3772

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 4-5, 7-8, 11-12, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Repka et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,682,721 ("Kim et al.").

As regards claim 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12, Repka et al. fail to teach the ingredients as outlined in claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12. Kim et al., however, discloses patches for teeth whitening which substantially discloses applicant's claimed invention. More specifically, as can be read from claim 3 of Kim et al., a number of polymers can be used alone or in combination to produce moisture activated adhesives. The list comprises PVM/MA copolymers and polyvinyl alcohols. The examples show that combinations of, for example, Gantrez S-97 with polyvinyl pyrrolidone (example 6) or polyvinyl alcohol with polyvinyl pyrrolidone (example 1) have the desired adhesive force on a moist substrate.

Absent a critical teaching and/or a showing of unexpected results derived from applicant's claimed adhesive formulation, the examiner contends it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the polymers specified in Repka et al., through routine experimentation, in the claimed ranges, with the polymers

specified in the list in the Kim publication for the production of an adhesive layer that has an improved adhesive force on moist surfaces.

5. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Repka et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,322,703 ("Lindemann").

As regards claim 24, Repka fails to teach carboxylic acid in the adhesive composition. Lindemann, however, teaches that it is known to use an organic acid such as carboxylic acid in the preparation of remoistenable adhesive in order to accomplish the esterification process. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to substitute the acid used for esterification in Repka for the carboxylic acid in disclosed in Lindemann depending upon which polymeric material is used.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim M. Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4796. The examiner can normally be reached on Wednesday to Friday, from 5:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco, can be reached on (571) 272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kim M. Lewis/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3772

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Kml
August 4, 2008